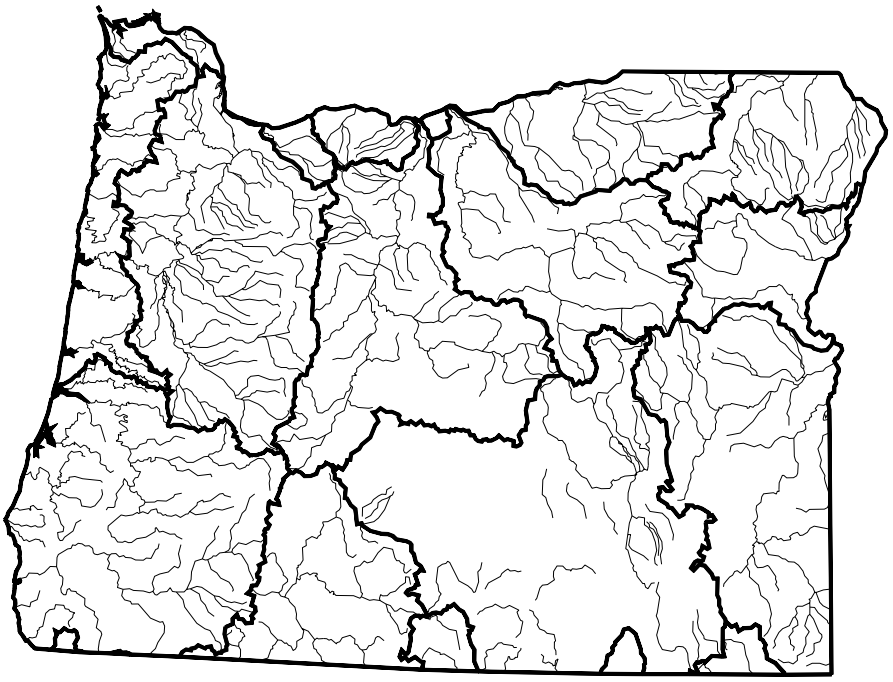
Oregon



Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Oregon 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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The report is also available on the Internet at: *http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/305bRpt/305bReport.htm*

Surface Water Quality

Seventy-four percent of Oregon's surveyed rivers have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life use. The most commonly reported problems in the state's streams include thermal modifications, pathogens, and habitat alterations. Suspected sources include agriculture, silviculture, and habitat and hydromodifications.

In lakes, 35% of the surveyed acres fully support aquatic life uses. Common problems in Oregon's lakes include nutrients, acidity, organic enrichment, and metals. Agriculture, natural sources, and urban runoff/storm sewers are the most commonly reported sources of lake impairment.

Ninety-three percent of Oregon's surveyed estuarine waters partially support shellfishing use due to periodic violations of bacteria standards. Suspected sources of bacteria include municipal and industrial point sources, agriculture, collection system failures, and urban runoff/storm sewers.

In Oregon, 13,687 river miles and 30 lakes do not meet state water quality standards and are listed on the Water Quality Limited Waterbodies 303(d) list. Although the list is significantly larger than in the past, the increase does not signify that Oregon's waters are more degraded than a few years ago. The increase simply reflects the amount of new information considered in developing the list.

Oregon did not report on the condition of wetlands.

Ground Water Quality

Oregon has two ground water management areas and is studying ground water quality in several other areas of the state. Contaminants of concern include pesticides, petroleum compounds, metals, and halogenated solvents. Suspected sources of contamination include agricultural activities, above- and below-ground storage tanks, landfills, septic systems, hazardous waste sites, spills, and urban runoff.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the state agency responsible for protecting Oregon's public water for a wide

range of uses. DEQ sets water quality standards to protect "beneficial uses" such as recreation, fish habitat, drinking water supplies, and aesthetics. DEQ is now beginning a 10-year process of developing Total Maximum Daily Loads for those waterbodies that appear on the state's 303(d) list.

DEQ regulates approximately 587 municipal wastewater sewage treatment plants and 223 industrial dischargers through individual permits that set limits on pollutants discharged. In addition, approximately 1,310 facilities have general permits that limit discharges and 1,410 facilities are covered by stormwater general permits. DEQ also permits and inspects septic system installations.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

DEQ monitors water quality with regular sampling of more than 50 rivers and streams in the 18 designated river basins in Oregon. This sampling produces conventional pollutant data for determining trends, standards compliance, and problem identification. Biological monitoring is also conducted under one of three sampling strategies: probabilistic sampling for extrapolation of conditions of study units (e.g., ecoregion), best management practices effectiveness monitoring, and reference site monitoring. Other monitoring includes studies of mixing zones at effluent discharges, volunteer monitoring, and sampling of shellfish areas for bacteria.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Individual Use Support in Oregon

Designated Use	Total Miles Assessed	Percent Good (Fully Supporting)	Percent Good (Threatened)	Percent Fair (Partially Supporting)	Percent Poor (Not Supporting)	Percent Not Attainable
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 114,823)[a]						
	53,735	30	44	0	26	-
	984	9	10	0	81	-
	5,026	55	1	0	44	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 618,934)						
	132,299	<1	35	0	65	-
	30,820	0	31	0	69	-
	23,699	8	59	0	33	-
Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 206)						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	56	7	0	93	0	0
	25	100	0	0	0	-

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.